

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4094 VICE 4093)

STATE FOR ARA, EB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, EAID, OAS, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PRESS PLAY OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ BILATERAL WITH
SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL; IDB MEETING

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4083

1. IMPORTANT ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS, WHOSE CORRESPONDENTS ARE TRAVELING WITH ECONMIN MARTINEZ DE HOZ, "OPINION," "NACION, AND "CLARIN," FEATURE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS THAT BLUMENTHAL UNDERSTANDS SPECIAL SITUATION (REGARDING TERRORISTS) IN ARGENTINA AND THAT CONGRESSMAN HERMAN BADILLO AT A PRIVATE LUNCH SAID HIS HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT IS "FLEXIBLE" AND CONTAINS AN ESCAPE CLAUSE AGAINST ECONOMIC SANCTIONS FOR COUNTRIES ACTUALLY FIGHTING TERRORISM.

2. TENOR OF PRESS COVERAGE IS ONE OF OPTIVISM
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THAT ECONMIN IS MAKING PROGRESS IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE US NOT TO APPLY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS FOR ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. EUPHORIA HEIGHTENED BY DAVID ROCKEFELLER QUOTE TO EFFECT THAT ARGENTINE ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS NOTHING SHORT OF MIRACULOUS WHICH IS HEADLINED IN SEVERAL PAPERS. "OPINION" COMMENTED THAT EVEN THOUGH MARTINEZ DE HOZ

HAD HAD TO SPEND MUCH TIME EXPLAINING THE ARGENTINE POSITION, "EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT, FOR THE MEMENT, NO ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS ARE EXPECTED FOR ARGENTINA."

3. "OPINION" SAID BADILLO GAVE MINISTER A COPY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT WHICH THEY SAID INCLUDED AN "ESCAPE CLAUSE" FAVORABLE TO ARGENTINA. THE PAPER SAID THAT AS A RESULT LC MARTINEZ DE HOZ-BADILLO DISCUSSION OF ARGENTINE SITUATION, ARGENTINE DELEGATION BELIEVED THAT, SINCE BADILLO'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT EXCLUDES COUNTRIES FIGHTING TERRORISM FROM SANCTIONS, IT POSED NO PROBLEMS FOR ARGENTINA.

4. "NACION" QUOTED ECONMIN AS SAYING HIS TALK WITH BLUMENTHAL WAS "CORDIAL AND POSITIVE." MARTINEZ DE HOZ SAID: "SR. BLUMENTHAL DID NOT ABANDON HIS POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HE (NOW) UNDERSTANDS THE SPECIAL SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY. HE ALSO DISPLAYED A READINESS TO KEEP OPEN FLUID LINES OF COMMUNICATION THAT WILL KEEP HIM UP TO DATE ON THE FACTUAL SITUATION SO THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARGENTINA CAN ADJUST ITSELF, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ARGENTINE LEADERS THAT ARGENTINA IS WORKING TO AVOID THE REESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL AND THAT CASES OF POSSIBLE EXCESS WILL GRADUALLY DISAPPEAR." "CLARIN" AND "OPINION" FOLLOW SAME LINE.

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